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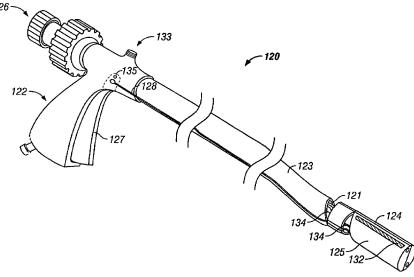
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR USE IN TISSUE APPROXIMATION AND FIXATION



(57) Abstract: Methods and devices for use in tissue approximation and fixation are described herein. The present invention provides, in part, methods and devices for acquiring tissue folds from the anterior and posterior portions of a hollow body organ, e.g., a stomach, positioning the tissue folds for affixing within a fixation zone of the stomach, preferably to create a pouch or partition below the esophagus, and fastening the tissue folds such that a tissue bridge forms excluding the pouch from the greater stomach cavity. The present invention further provides devices for performing a transoral, endoscopic hollow organ division, including a tissue acquisition device (120) capable of acquiring the desired tissue, and a fastening element to secure the outer layers of the acquired tissue such that the desired healing response is achieved.



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- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments
- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.
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2 September 2004

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/19617

	CONTRACT OF CITIES OF A LIMITED	_ <u></u>			
A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC(7) : A61B 17/08 US CL : 606/153					
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC					
B. FIELDS SEARCHED					
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U.S.: 606/153, 151					
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched					
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)					
C. DOC	UMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT				
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where a	ppropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.		
X	US 5,411,508 A (BESSLER et al.) 02 May 1995 (Column 15 line 55 to Column 16 line 29.	02.05.1995), See figures 9B and 9C;	1, 15, 20, 21		
X	US 5,792,153 A (SWAIN et al.) 11 August 1998 (11.08.1999), See figures 8 and 9; Column 3, lines 23-60.				
x	US 2002/0082621 A1 (SCHURR et al.) 27 June 2002 (27.06.2002), See Figure 14; 1, 2, 15, 16, 27				
x	paragraph [0099]. US 6,231,561 B1 (FRAZIER et al.) 15 May 2001 (15.05.2001), See figures 9-11; Column 11, lines 1-18.		1, 15, 20, 27		
x	US 4,402,445 A (GREEN) 06 September 1983 (06	.09.1983), See figures 6, 9, and 16;	56 and 57		
x	Column 4, lines 47-63. US 6,200,318 B1 (HAR-SHAI et al.) 13 March 2001 (13.03.2001), See column 5 line 56 to Column 6 line 11; Fig. 10.		56 and 58		
Further	documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.	See patent family annex.			
* Special categories of cited documents:		"T" later document published after the inter date and not in conflict with the applica			
	defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be lar relevance	principle or theory underlying the inver	ntion		
"E" earlier ap	plication or patent published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance; the c considered novel or cannot be consider when the document is taken alone			
	which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as	"Y" document of particular relevance; the considered to involve an inventive step combined with one or more other such	when the document is		
"O" document	referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	being obvious to a person skilled in the			
	cument published prior to the international filing date but later than the "&" document member of the same patent family ority date claimed		amily		
Date of the actual completion of the international search		Date of mailing of the international sear	ch report		
	(21.06.2004)	Authorized officer	UK 2004 Likeene Joe		
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Commissioner for Patents		Bradford C Pantuck	\mathcal{O}		
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Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230					

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/19617

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 1 of first sheet)			
This international report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:			
Claim Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:			
Claim Nos.: because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:			
3. Claim Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).			
Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 2 of first sheet)			
This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows: Please See Continuation Sheet			
 As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee. 			
As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:			
4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.: Remark on Protest The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.			
No protest accompanied the payment of additional searc! fees.			

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT				
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BOX II. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING				
This International Search Authority has found 3 inventions claimed in the Interna	ational Application covered by the claims indicated			
below:				
I. Claims 1-26, drawn to a method of partitioning a body organ				
II. Claims 27-55 drawn to an apparatus for acquiring tissue III. Claims 56-58 drawn to an apparatus of a tissue clamp				
III. Claims 30-36 drawn to an apparatus of a dissuc claim				
1. This International Searching Authority considers that the international applica	ation does not comply with the requirements of unity			
of invention (Rules 13.1, 13.2, 13.3) for the reasons indicated below:				
The inventions listed as Groups I-III do not relate to a single general inventive co	oncept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT			
Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the	following reasons: the three groups do not share			
special technical features.				
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